

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

1939

- Sept. 1 German troops invaded Poland.
- Sept. 3 Britain and France declared war on Germany.
- Nov. 30 Russian troops invaded Finland.

1940

- Apr. 9 Germany attacked Denmark and Norway.
- May 10 Germany invaded Belgium, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands.
- June 10 Italy declared war on Britain and France.
- June 22 France surrendered to Germany.
- Aug. 4 Italy invaded British Somaliland.
- Oct. 28 Italy attacked Greece.
- Nov. 20 Hungary joined the Axis.
- Nov. 23 Romania joined the Axis.

1941

- Jan. 15 British soldiers invaded Ethiopia.
- Mar. 1 Bulgaria joined the Axis.
- Apr. 6 Germany invaded Greece and Yugoslavia.
- June 22 Axis forces invaded Russia.
- July 7 United States troops landed in Iceland.
- Aug. 14 The Atlantic Charter was announced.
- Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The United States declared war on Germany and Italy.

1942

- June 5 The United States declared war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
- June 21 German troops seized Tobruk in North Africa.
- July 2 The British halted the Germans at El Alamein.
- Sept. 16 German forces entered Stalingrad (now Volgograd) in Russia.
- Oct. 23 The British began an offensive at El Alamein.
- Nov. 7-8 Allied forces landed in North Africa.
- Nov. 11 French resistance in North Africa ended.
- Nov. 12 British troops captured Tobruk.
- Nov. 19 The Russians counterattacked at Stalingrad.
- Nov. 27 The French scuttled their fleet at Toulon.

1943

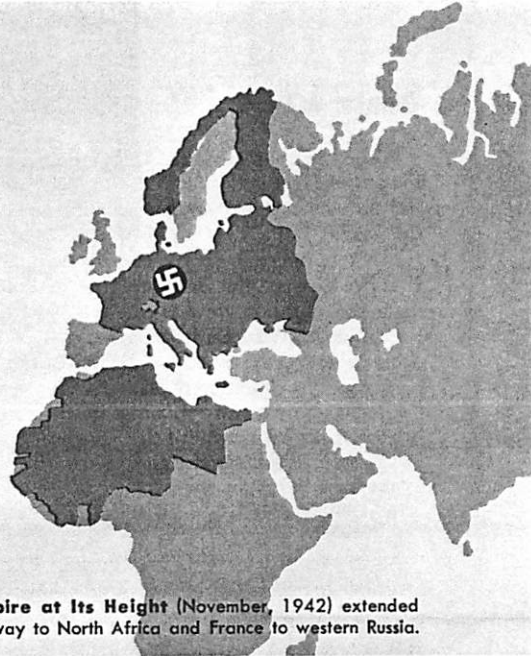
- Jan. 31 Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus surrendered to the Russians.
- May 7 Tunis and Bizerte fell to the Allies.
- May 12 Organized Axis resistance in Africa ended.
- July 10 Allied forces invaded Sicily.
- Sept. 3 The Allies landed in Italy.
- Sept. 3 Italy signed a secret armistice with the Allies.
- Oct. 13 Italy declared war on Germany.
- Nov. 6 The Russians recaptured Kiev.

1944

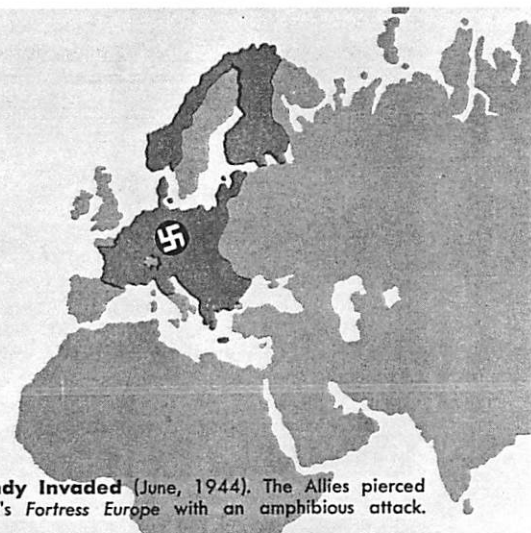
- Jan. 27 The Russians broke the siege of Leningrad.
- Mar. 19 German troops swept into Hungary.
- June 6 The Allies landed in Normandy, France.
- June 13 The first V-1 guided missile fell on London.
- July 25 United States forces broke out of Normandy.
- Aug. 15 Allied troops landed in southern France.
- Aug. 25 Romania declared war on Germany.
- Sept. 9 Bulgaria declared war on Germany.
- Sept. 10 Finland signed an armistice with Russia.
- Dec. 16 The Germans began the Battle of the Bulge.
- Dec. 27 The Allies halted the German offensive.

1945

- Jan. 11 Russian soldiers entered Warsaw, Poland.
- Jan. 21 Hungary declared war on Germany.
- Feb. 13 Russian forces occupied Budapest.
- Apr. 13 Vienna fell to invading Russian troops.
- Apr. 22 The Russians reached the suburbs of Berlin.
- Apr. 25 U.S. and Russian forces met at Torgau.
- May 2 German troops in Italy surrendered.
- May 2 Berlin surrendered to Russian troops.
- May 7 Germany surrendered to the Allies.
- July 26 The Allies issued the Potsdam Declaration.



Axis Empire at Its Height (November, 1942) extended from Norway to North Africa and France to western Russia.



Normandy Invaded (June, 1944). The Allies pierced Germany's Fortress Europe with an amphibious attack.



Surrender of Germany (May, 1945) ended fighting in Europe. The Allies then freed German-held Norway.



Wide World; United Press Int.

WAR LEADERS

Allied "Big Three" were Britain's Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, and Russia's Joseph Stalin.

Axis Leaders Adolf Hitler of Germany and Benito Mussolini of Italy failed to win their dream of a great world empire.

ward, Allied armies would crush Germany against the Russian forces rolling westward. The Allies planned to knock Italy out of the war by invading it from North African bases.

In order to defeat Japan, the Allies planned to seize key Pacific islands and to build bomber bases in China. Using China and the Pacific islands as springboards, the Allies could then invade Japan.

Mobilization

When war began in 1939, Germany had the advantage of being substantially mobilized. It had already organized its industrial plants for wartime needs. The Allies, after war broke out, had to draft and train men for the armed forces, transform factories and plants for war production, and adopt strategic plans.

Hitler had a well-balanced *wehrmacht*, or armed force, of 106 combat divisions, with powerful tanks, motorized vehicles, and heavy artillery. Great Britain, France, and Poland had greater reserves of manpower. But their armies were not so well trained and equipped as those of the Germans. Germany had about 12,000 military aircraft, compared to about 8,000 for the Allies. The Allies had larger navies, with about five tons of ships to every one for the Germans. But the Allies also had to patrol wide areas of the world, and Germany could restrict its fleet activities to the North Sea and the nearby Atlantic. In addition, German submarines seriously threatened Allied vessels carrying troops and war materials.

From the time Germany attacked Poland until Japan surrendered six years later, the Axis mobilized about 30,000,000 men and women in their armed forces. The Allies mobilized about 62,000,000 men and women.

Early Stages of the War

The overwhelming power of the Axis won a series of major conquests during the first two years of war. In turn, Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, France, Yugoslavia, and Greece fell before the Axis war machine. Germany gained active allies in Italy, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. The Germans tried to bomb Britain into sur-



render, but failed. German armies then invaded Russia.

Blitzkrieg

Poland Crushed. The German high command planned the Polish campaign with great care. It pioneered a new method of warfare called *blitzkrieg*, or lightning war. On Sept. 1, 1939, German *Stuka* dive bombers attacked Polish troops, and heavier bombers struck at fortifications and industrial plants. On the ground, tanks and infantry raced through the Polish lines. The British and French could not give direct help to the Poles.

In August, Germany and Russia had agreed secretly to divide Poland. On September 17, with the Polish armies ready to collapse, Russian armies invaded eastern Poland against little opposition. The Russians claimed that they wanted to "protect their own frontiers." Most Polish resistance ended within three days.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WAR IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

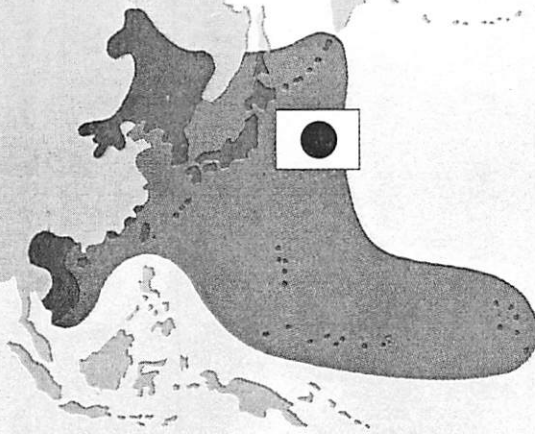
Pearl Harbor Attacked (December, 1941). Japan's conquests included Indochina, Manchuria, and parts of China.

Japan's Empire at Its Height (August, 1942) stretched from the Netherlands East Indies to parts of the Aleutians.

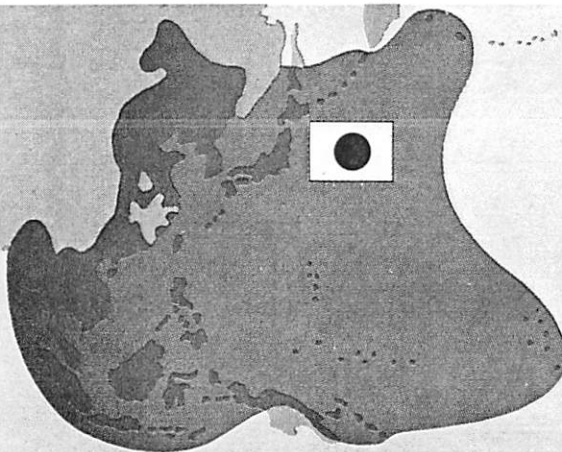
Surrender (August, 1945). When Japan surrendered, ending World War II, it still occupied parts of eastern Asia.

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Sept. 18 Japan invaded Manchuria in North China.
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- 1941**
Apr. 13 Japan and Russia signed a non-aggression pact.
June 8 British and French troops invaded Syria.
Aug. 25 Russian and British forces invaded Iran.
Dec. 7 The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.
Dec. 8 The United States declared war on Japan.
Dec. 9 China declared war on Germany, Italy, and Japan.
Dec. 10 Guam surrendered to the Japanese.
Dec. 23 Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.
Dec. 25 British troops at Hong Kong surrendered.
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Jan. 2 Manila fell to invading Japanese forces.
Jan. 11 The Japanese landed in the Netherlands East Indies.
Feb. 1 U.S. ships raided the Marshalls and Gilberts.
Feb. 15 Singapore surrendered to the Japanese.
Feb. 27 The Allies lost the Battle of Java Sea.
Mar. 7 The Japanese occupied the Netherlands East Indies.
April 9 Bataan surrendered to the Japanese.
Apr. 18 U.S. carrier-based aircraft bombed Tokyo.
May 4-8 The Allies won the Battle of the Coral Sea.
May 6 The Japanese occupied Corregidor.
June 4-6 The Battle of Midway ended Japan's expansion eastward.
Aug. 7 U.S. marines landed on Guadalcanal.
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Mar. 2-5 The Allies defeated a Japanese naval force in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.
Mar. 13 Japanese troops retreated across the Yangtze.
May 30 Organized Japanese resistance on Attu ended.
Oct. 2 Allied forces captured Finschhafen.
Nov. 1 U.S. troops landed on Bougainville Island.
Nov. 20 U.S. marines invaded Tarawa and Makin.
Nov. 22 The Allies conferred at Cairo in Egypt.
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Feb. 17 U.S. naval forces raided Truk Island.
Feb. 29 Allied soldiers landed in the Admiralties.
Mar. 22 Japanese troops crossed the border of India.
Apr. 22 Allied forces landed at Hollandia.
June 15 U.S. marines invaded Saipan Island.
June 15 B-29 Superfortresses raided Japan.
June 19-20 U.S. forces won the Battle of the Philippine Sea.
July 21 U.S. troops landed on Guam Island.
Sept. 15 U.S. marines invaded Peleliu Island.
Oct. 20 U.S. Army forces landed on Leyte.
Oct. 23-26 The U.S. Pacific Fleet crushed the Japanese fleet in the Battle for Leyte Gulf.
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Jan. 22 The Allies reopened a land route to China.
Feb. 19 U.S. marines stormed Iwo Jima Island.
Apr. 1 U.S. troops landed on Okinawa Island.
Aug. 6 U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
Aug. 9 U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.
Aug. 10 Japan opened peace negotiations.
Aug. 14 Japan accepted the Allied surrender terms.
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Sept. 8 Japanese forces in China surrendered.
Sept. 12 Japanese troops in Southeast Asia surrendered.

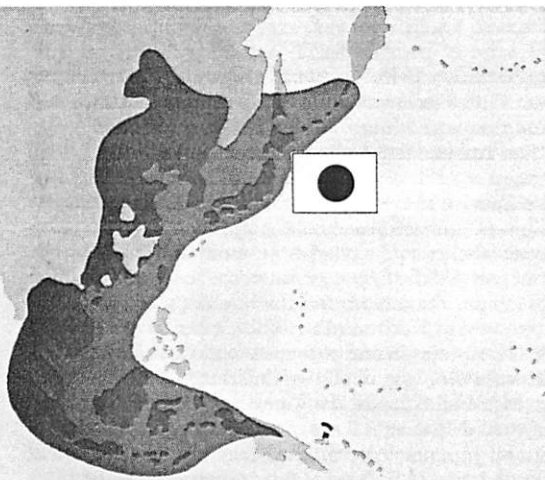
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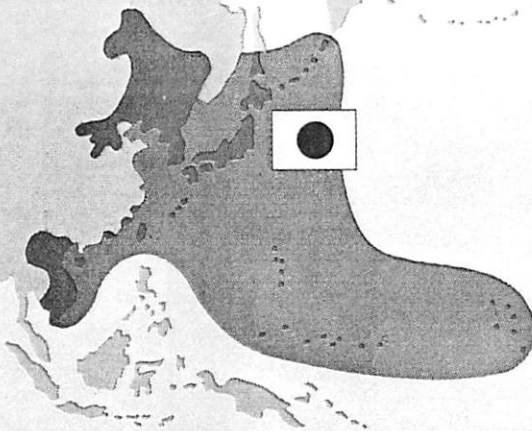
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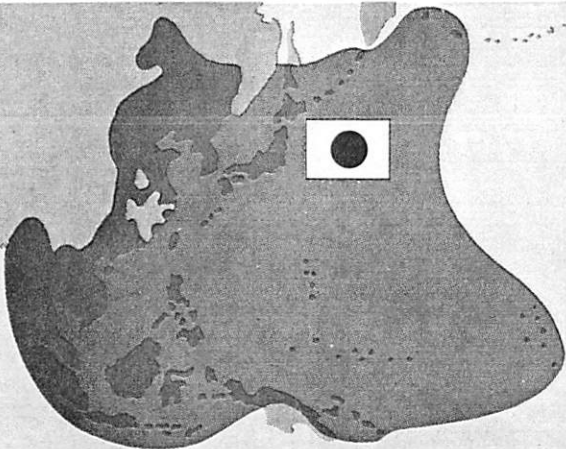
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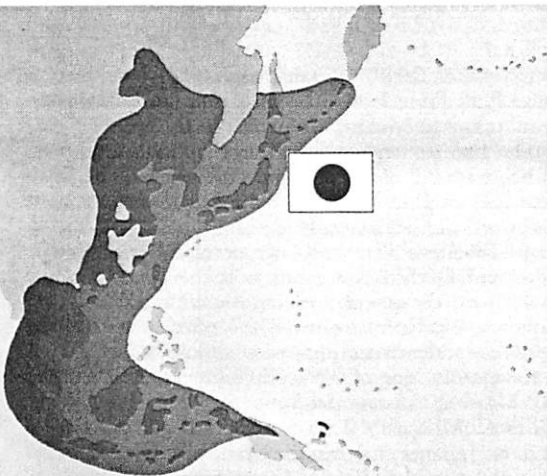
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PACIFIC THEATER

